

sequently the only Numen. Whereas the genuine Theists, though many of them maintained the world's eternity, yet they all concluded, both the form and substance of it to have always depended upon the Deity, as the light doth upon the sun ; the Stoics with some others being here excepted.

xvii. Aristotle tells us, some were of opinion, that this Atheistic philosophy, which derives all things from senseless and stupid matter in the way of forms and qualities, was of great antiquity, and as old as any records of time amongst the Greeks; and not only so, but also that the ancient Theologers themselves entertained it: *Elv* Met i.1. c.

S.
S^toper. « \ \ -| f | - | | | t'om. iv.

£ riv££, ot KCU rove Tra/iTraAatovc,
 /cat TOAV TT^O p. 265.

vvv yevecrew£₉ /cat TT/OWTOVC floAoyiJcravrac,
 otovrai ir£pi rijg fyvaws SiaAajSdv* Q/ceavov
 re yap l Ti^Ovv £7roiriaav rr?c -y£V£(Tfa)c
 Trarepac, /cat rov opicov rwv (uf>, rriv /caXoi/^usv^v VTT
 avrwv 2rvya rwv Troirirwv* rtjLttwrarov fjitv yap ro
 7T£>fcrcj3vTarov" op/coc §£ TO rtjutwrarov
 larrtv There are some who conceive,
 that even the most ancient of all, and
 the most remote from this present
 generation, and they also who first
 theologized, did physiologize after this
 manner; forasmuch as they made the
 Ocean and Tethys to have been the
 original of generation; and for this
 cause the oath of the gods is said to be
 by water (called by the poets Styx), as
 being that from which they all derived
 their original. For an oath ought to be
 by that, which is most honourable; and
 that which is most ancient, is most
 honourable.—In which words it is very
 probable, that Aristotle aimed at Plato;
 however, it is certain, that Plato, in his
 Theaetetas,^a affirms this Atheistic
 doctrine to have been ve:ry ancient, *on -*
rravra cV/ova po-ng r£ /cat

^a **P.**
118.
8 2
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